

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03888 291506Z

43

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 FEAE-00 /071 W

----- 094621

R 282121Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8348

UNCLAS BOGOTA 3888

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID TECH CO

SUBJ: NUCLEAR AFFAIRS INSTITUTE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

1. DR. ERNESTO VILLARREAL, YOUNG, US EDUCATED DIR OF COLOMBIA'S NUCLEAR AFFAIRS INSTITUTE SINCE LAST DECEMBER, CALLED ON THE EMBASSY RECENTLY TO SEE IF HE COULD OBTAIN ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE US GOVERNMENT. HIS IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS FUEL FROM THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION FOR THE INSTITUTE'S REACTOR. HE WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY OTHER FORM OF ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE.

2. HIS PRINCIPAL CONTACT IN TYI US IS DR. WILLIAM KERR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS. DR. KERR HAS BEEN INVITED TO BOGOTA THIS SUMMER TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEMINAR ON INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. DR. VILLARREAL ASKS IF THDDUS COULD PARTIALLY FINANCE THIS VISIT.

3. COLOMBIA'S 20 KILOWATT REACTOR WAS DONATED BY THE USG 10 YEARS AGO, WITH THE URANIUM FUEL RENTED FROM THE AEC AT 7.5 PERCENT OF ITS VALUE PER YEAR. BEGINNING JAN 1 OF THIS YEAR THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION, WHICH APPARENTLY TOOK OVER MANAGEMENT OF RENTED FUEL FROM THE AEC, DISCONTINUED ALL LEASING ARRANGEMENTS AND REQUIRES THAT THE FUEL BE EITHER PURCHASED OR RETURNED, IN THE MEANTIME TREATING THE COST OF THE FUEL AS AN UNPAID ACCOUNT WITH A 12 PERCENT ANNUAL INTEREST CHARGE. ACCORDING TO DR. VILLARREAL, THE EXPECTED LIFE OF THE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 03888 291506Z

FUEL HAS EXPIRED AND 12 NEW ELEMENTS ARE REQUIRED AT A COST OF

DOLS 35,000 FOR URANIUM PLUS DOLS 30,000 TO CONSTRUCT THE ELEMENTS.

4. DR. VILLARREAL SUGGESTS RETURNING THE USED FUEL ELEMENTS TO THE US AS SOON AS REPLACEMENTS ARE RECEIVED, WITHOUT ANY OBLIGATION BY COLOMBIA TO BUY THE URANIUM CONTAINED IN THE OLD UNITS, AND IN THE MEANTIME REVERTING TO THE OLD RENTAL ARRANGEMENT OF 7.5 PERCENT INSTEAD OF 12 PERCENT. OBTAINING REPLACEMENTS, HE SAYS, DEPENDS UPON FINANCING, AND HE WONDERS IF THE US CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE. ALTERNATIVELY, HE SUGGESTS THAT COLOMBIA ACQUIRE A LARGER, PERHAPS TWO MEGAWATT, REACTOR, WITH FINANCING ARRANGED BETWEEN THE GOC AND USG, WITH FOR EXAMPLE THE MONEY TO BUY FUEL IN THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE INSTEAD BEING USED TOWARD THE NEW REACTOR.

5. COLOMBIA'S NUCLEAR AFFAIRS INSTITUTE RECEIVES ASSISTANCE FROM WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE IAEA, BUT NOT FROM THE US AT PRESENT. WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE THE IMPORTANCE TO THE US OF COLOMBIA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM, THOUGH DONATION OF A REACTOR 10 YEARS AGO INDICATES SOME IMPORTANCE. IF, AS DR. VILLARREAL SAYS, FUEL RENTED FROM THE AEC HAS OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY WE WOULD CONTINUE TO CHARGE FOR IT. AT ANY RATE, THE EMBASSY REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON ASSISTANCE TO THE INSTITUTE, AND SPECIFICALLY ON THE REQUEST TO HELP FINANCE DR. KERR'S VISIT AND ON THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS ON THE FUEL PROBLEM.

VAKY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, NUCLEAR FUELS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA03888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750150-0276
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975049/aaaaahsa.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR AFFAIRS INSTITUTE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
TAGS: EAID, TECH, CO, US, (VILLARREAL, ERNESTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006